APPLEGATE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FORMED:
APRIL 27,1989

LIBRARY?? NO,
A MUSEUM !!!

WRITTEN BY:
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JANUARY 1995

Applegate Valley
Historical Society
15050 Hwy. 238
CPO Box 3122
Applegate, Oregon
97530

Officers & Board
Nov. 1994 / Nov. 1995
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John Black
Bill Dunlap
John Pernoll
Barbara Ross

It was early in the year of 1984 when the Applegate Branch of the Jackson County Library system was struggling to survive that we decided to make a quilt to raffle for funds to keep it from going under. This quilt was sold for $328.00 and we were able to solve the budget problem. The rent was paid, but the ladies who kept the library open alternately froze or cooked, depending on the season. Roar Kjaer became aware of the library problems when we asked him to buy tickets for the quilt. He offered us a piece of land for a library, but he was always thwarted, by local opposition, when he went to the county for a zoning change.

We had gone to the Jackson County Commissioners about building a library, but without a zoning change we were in limbo. Somehow I got to choose the spot for a library. I chose the place where the Grubb house had been. It is so beautiful, large trees, climbing roses, lilac bushes, daffodils, birds.....almost a sanctuary in downtown Applegate! Years went by and in 1988 at a meeting in Grants Pass I saw one of the men from Jackson County Court whom we'd discussed the library with in 1984. He wanted to know what ever happened to that effort and told me I should pursue it.

I called Roar Kjaer and learned that at long last he'd been given a zone change. We discussed the library and said his offer still stood. "Go for it", he said.

Meanwhile, the library ladies were less than enchanted with the land (all you could see was blackberry vines over mounds of rubble).Randi and Sue Lummis had renovated the library to be more comfortable and they didn't want to change.

IF NOT A LIBRARY THEN HOW ABOUT A MUSEUM ??

Fate stepped in about this time and Roar and Mary Kjaer brought to our attention the fact that the Southern Oregon Historical Society (SOHS) had declared William Pernoll's old hand hewed log store, (known as the Pernoll Grange Store) , surplus. This building had been the first general store in Applegate. They were going to dispose of it.

Things just seemed to fall into place. John Pernoll arrived home from Alaska and agreed to give us enough land to satisfy the access needs to North Applegate Road which the County required.

Gary Wheeler got us on the agenda of the SOHS meeting where it was already on their agenda to dispose of the store. This all happened within two days of John Pernoll's arrival home. Four of us went to that meeting: John Pernoll, Mary Sampson, Isabel Goode and Myrtle Krouse. Since my tongue is hinged in the middle, I was spokesperson for the group. The SOHS agreed to give us time to form a legal entity so they could legally give us the building.

The day after Sue Kapillas took office (as County Commissioner) she met with us about moving the building. She helped us immensely. She came to Applegate for hamburgers with us and to look at our site. "You've got your work cut out for you," she told us. We then formed the Applegate Valley Historical Society (AVHS) on April 27,1989.

Carl Offenbacher was doing our paper work for us, and he also put them before the planners for us. Sue Kupillas helped us at every turn. Verlan Thomas worked in his spare time for months on our papers, putting together the two pieces of land to make one plot, then straightening up where the state highway had moved too far our way. Everywhere we turned, someone was helping us. Jan Pederson computerized our by-laws for us which had to be submitted along with our land papers to the Department of Justice.

About this time I lost the wind in my sails because sophistication in any form is something I shun -- paperwork boggles my mind. Thank God for Marguerite Black who came to my rescue. She eats this stuff up. She quieted these clamoring agencies with a fee here and a letter there and then initiated a formal system of bookkeeping and began a newsletter to stimulate more interest in the Applegate Valley Historical Society.

Before we could move the store to its new home we had to pour a slab and move a water pipe which ran from Bill Dunlap's well to his house next door. Bill worked on that detail and Don Brown dug the trench.

Mike Offenbacher and Jim Tweddy donated the required gravel for the slab, and L.T.M. gave us a discount on the concrete. We hired Truman Elmore to get the forms ready as Danny Boone had instructed since he was familiar with County requirements.

Being a babe in the woods, I took a fat packet of "stuff" from the planning office to Truman," Follow this" I said blithely," and we are home free". Several days went by before the ship hit the sand. We had to go before the planners and maybe dig up the waterpipe. The wire we had

buried with it was not blue. Five of us went in and the hinge in the middle of my tongue didn't work so well, in fact, it didn't work at all. We were told we had to dig up the pipe. Were we going to have to put a marble back in the bucket ?? After some inquires around town, and an early morning meeting, there were some alterations made. A planner came to look the project over, and because we are old, decrepit and senile, we didn't have to dig up the pipe-- thank God for adjustments (and senility). The permit is nailed to a tree as requested, and the show goes on. Danny Boone and Mike Freeburg poured the slab.

The Applegate Lions (where would we be without them?), helped Ben Watts move the store. We had a ten car entourage, with Tuffy Decker manning two CB's and help from all those concerned: State Highway, Pacific Power & Light, Dave Johnson; Sunnyside Cable TV, and Marguerite Black got the permit after some 50 phone calls. The skill Tuffy demonstrated in placing the building over the slab should go down in the Annals of Catskinning.

The Timber Industry donated timbers to replace the row that had rotted away at the base of the store. The Lions have shaped and hand hewed the timbers, and put them into place. (It won't be long until the floor goes down.) We have part of one timber leftover, and we hope to use it for a sign.

It may seem to some that we are at a standstill, but I like to think we are just in the slow lane. Our new secretary, Gary Sampson, has attended two Oregon Historical Society seminars held in Portland to help newly formed local historical societies which are springing up all over the state.

We do not have plans formulated yet for our operation of the museum. There are rules we must follow if we are to

For awhile we rattled around like marbled in the bottom of a bucket. It seemed no matter where we turned there was an obstacle. We even joined the Questers- a national organization that saves old buildings. Jinx Troon was the chairperson for Josephine County Chapter. "This is the first thing we've had that we can really sink our teeth into", she said with excitement and enthusiasm. She thought we could be under their umbrella and use their IRS number. Then Jinx became ill and died. Without her leadership the Questers did nothing, so it was back to the drawing board. Lyn Boening helped us get our IRS number, only then did we learn that all the agencies, bureaus and departments in the state put their hands out and we were lucky if $10.00 was all they asked.

It was a big surprise for us to learn that before we could qualify for County funds, we had to get 15 members to join the Oregon Historical Society (OHS). At that time this amounted to $300.00. Here we are peeping chickens and we have to feed this huge old clucking hen !

We challenged that requirement because it seemed so unconstitutional. We went before the County Commission to protest, thinking we could bend the rule, only to learn it's a law ! A law ? We don't break the law. You'd never guess who got to be the spokesperson for that little sortie ! It was just a stroke of luck for us that Lu Anthony was in the audience that day, October 25,1989, and she was kind enough to give Isabel Goode the information she needed so we could get our articles of incorporation filed, and that took another marble out of the bucket. We were learning all about being the new kid on the block.

Kerry Lay, at the Planning Office, helped us gain a few waivers. He put Scott Clay in charge of our project. There

There were some rumblings going on internally in the Planning Office, and we were called to appear before Scott Clay and Dick Converse. Someone seemed to think we needed more land. We explained that this was not Disneyland. We thought the land we had was adequate and there was no way we could get more. We either had a project or we didn't, and we needed to know before June 2 so we could cancel a clean-up day sponsored by the Applegate Lions Club. They told us to go ahead with the clean-up.

On June 1,1990 a group of Applegate Garden Club ladies met at the project site to prune rose bushes, plum trees, etc. from the fence row. The next day the Applegate Lions Club arrived in force and Chuck Guches brought his tractor and equipment. Tuffy Decker brought his caterpillar and the clean-up was really rolling. Chuck would push with his front-end loader against the blade of Tuffy's cat and scoop up the dislodged debris and load the dump truck. It seemed that for years cars would leave the road and crash through the fence. The rubbish therefor got tossed onto this piece of land.

Russell Elmore had told me early on that he would clean out the well which was full of garbage, having been used for that until it would hold no more. The Lions set up a bucket brigade and filled the dump truck twice. Everyone was anticipating reaching the bottom of the well. Russell took a short handled shovel and dug earth away until water began to trickle in. Before they completed the job there was water in the well nearly to the top of Russell's boots, so we have water for grounds maintenance once the project is finished.

continue to receive funds from the County.

We do have the counters from John Pernoll's store to utilize as exhibit space. We wonder about an old stove, cracker barrel and nail keg for a checker board; with enough space for a small meeting. Anybody know of an old Camp White stove around?

We would like to thank Dana Gerhardt and B.W. Bixler for their donations. In consolidating nearly 10 years of activity in the store project, there is no way we can recognize all the persons who have helped. People are so good and willing to do....but space is limited. It is our hope that sometime next year we can have a real whoop-de-do opening and begin some traveling exhibits from OHS. Any interested persons are invited to come and help us plan our programs.

Fill out the form below to join AVHS.
PLEASE PRINT:

Name:_____
Address:_____

_____

_____
Phone:_____

Annual membership:
1 person $10.00 _____
2 people $15.00 _____
Family $20.00 _____

Send to: Applegate Valley
Historical Society
CPO Box 3122
Applegate, Ore. 97530

Honoree Board
Roar & Mary Kjaer
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2000
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John Black
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Museum Coordinator:
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